May 1, 2020

About my ugly blogs. No, I'm not being annoyingly self-effacing. I mean, my literal ugly blogs. As in, the ones with horrible background colors. Some are done in cold gray, which is fine. But there's one with the worst shade of tan, and another done in that horrible yellowish olive green. They're awful to look at, and that's why I chose those colors for certain blogs. Let me explain.

The blogs with the most important content I made - things about God, mostly videos - I couldn't do up all fun and nice looking, I had to make them ugly and plain. To keep them from being mixed up into my never ending flow of nutty random content. To keep my motives pure. To give them to God, and move on. To keep them visually unappealing, so the messages they contain won't be mixed up with the old vanity of my "art". Does this make sense? Not that anyone asked, but I like explaining things anyway.

I have been reduced, stripped of pride of life, weakened, humbled, vanity purged, pride in accomplishments removed. Basically God has fixed a very deep seated flaw in me (lots, actually) regarding talent, performance, accomplishment, appearances, and pride. That's covering a lot of territory in one sentence, but to simplify, I can sum it up like this - the things I do for Him can not shine and sparkle, they can't be done to win the praise and approval of people, and they can't bring me any personal satisfaction other than simply knowing I served Him, and even then, I do well to forget about it, lest more pride sneaks in.

Backstory: I have been an artist all my life, developing my skills since early childhood, growing in creativity and talent, winning contests and awards in art as a teen, then mobilizing into selling paintings in my 30's, growing stronger and fiercly determined, paintings growing larger and larger, both physically, and in my own head as well. Art... took over. By my early 30's, I was getting paid

for my art. And had all the confidence in the world to carry it further, until...

Ok, here, I must politely link to a recording I did, about how God stopped me in my tracks. I say politely because I am trying hard not to post links anymore. But this audio/video - The Fire Inside - https://archive.org/details/TheFireInside
describes the time in my life where God interrupted all my selfish artistic endeavors, put me in "time out" (one of many), and put it on my heart to sit down, and write.

He put an end to me using art, for me. That's not why He gave me talent. Also, He had to cleanse me from some of the actual content I was doing, to make money. Abstract, mostly. But not what He wanted for and from my hands.

My great brain blowout of 2006 - the thing that pushed me out of living life as I knew it - part of what landed me in the ER was encephalitis. At that time, they also tested my blood, and found that I had, or recently had, West Nile virus. One of my diagnoses was West Nile Induced Encephalitis (in addition to other things they found, such as the lesion in my brain, but that's another story). One of the things I had been doing prior to having seizures and confusion and disorientation in the Fall of 2006 was .... painting. After God told me not to. I was tempted... and did just one more... and glossed it in polymer resin. I think I accidentally breathed some in, because I did that last painting in my apartment, with no ventilation. Just one more painting, real quick, I thought. I'll show it and sell it. It'll pay some bills...

Just days after that last painting, my head began to swell internally, fire headache, pressure beyond describing. Crying, disoriented, barely able to drive to work, breaking down at work. Next thing I know I'm in the ER getting my head scanned. The rest is a very, very long and confusing story...

Because they found West Nile in my blood, they said that was the cause of the brain infection. But... the headache from hell started just a day or two after glossing that painting.

It's confusing, but, I think I know what happened. I was already struggling with fluid buildup in my brain, and this was the cause of my seizures. That had been going on for a while, and the brain scan showed hydrocephalis, which confirmed what I already knew. (I asked God in prayer what on earth was happening to me, and I heard in my spirit about fluid building up in me, where synovial fluid should have been, but is not, because of the bone condition I was born with...) So the water on the brain was already going on, and I think that extra fluid got inflamed/infected by the gloss fumes. That's how I ended up with encephalitis. Am I rambling? Wait, there's more...

I truly believe God punished me for doing "just one more painting". It took a couple of years to recover from that, and I'm still not the same. I lost everything when that happened, and still haven't recovered in those areas. It broke me.

It all goes back to my bones, and how the condition I was born with (congenital skeletal assymetry) is changing and progressing as I age. I'm ok, and after 5 years of not being able to walk, or even stand up, I'm up again, and gaining strength, because God decided to heal me.

When He says He's healing me, I don't question it. I don't know if He fixed my bones, or did maintenance work on me so I can walk, but whatever He did, I trust Him.

The fluid buildup problem in my brain is also fixed. The fluid still forms, but now it comes out. But that's a story for another day.

So what does all this have to do with art, and my ugly blogs?

Do I have to explain that? Ok. I can create now, and be creative, but it's to serve Him, not myself, and none of the old prideful art skill of my youth is allowed back in. The cartoons I made are dumb and ugly, but carry messages that might benefit others. (not all, but lots of them). And the blogs I put together that have to do with God, can't be pretty on the outside, because vanity.

See, my God had to beat the bad out of me, so He could use me the way He wanted to. And I'm going to obey Him, because I really don't want to have to sit down in a wheelchair for 5 years again.

And that's the story of My Ugly Blogs.

amycat1010